



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3623

by Rep. Michael P. McAuliffe

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2310/2310-376.5 new

Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Requires the Department to: (1) establish a program to heighten awareness and enhance knowledge and understanding of hepatitis C; (2) conduct a study examining both the current and future statuses of the disease in the State; (3) communicate to health care providers and employers the benefits of disease awareness and prevention; and (4) develop a prevention program to reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis C. Provides that voluntary hepatitis C testing shall be established at facilities that provide voluntary HIV testing. Requires the Department to establish a voluntary hepatitis C counseling training course that includes information relating to the special needs of persons with positive hepatitis C test results, including the importance of early intervention and treatment and recognition of psychosocial needs. Effective immediately.

LRB099 07222 JLK 27319 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 2310-376.5 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-376.5 new)

8 Sec. 2310-376.5. Hepatitis C testing programs; training of
9 counselors.

10 (a) The Department shall:

11 (1) establish a program to heighten awareness and
12 enhance knowledge and understanding of hepatitis C,
13 including activities to promote public awareness of risk
14 factors, the value of early detection, available screening
15 services, and available treatment options for hepatitis C;

16 (2) conduct a study examining both the current and
17 future statuses of the disease in the State;

18 (3) communicate to health care providers and employers
19 the benefits of disease awareness and prevention; and

20 (4) develop a prevention program to reduce the risk of
21 transmission of hepatitis C.

22 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of
23 this Section, the Department shall also establish voluntary

1 hepatitis C testing programs that provide confidential
2 counseling and testing at facilities that provide voluntary HIV
3 testing. The Department may contract with public and private
4 entities to perform the testing.

5 (c) Any test results obtained under subsection (b) of this
6 Section shall not be used for insurance purposes, to screen or
7 determine suitability for employment, or to terminate a
8 person's employment.

9 (d) A person who violates subsection (c) of this Section is
10 liable to the person injured by the violation, who may bring a
11 civil action for damages and recover from the violator the
12 greater of \$1000 or actual damages, and reasonable attorney's
13 fees for each violation. A person may, in addition, bring an
14 action to restrain a violation or threatened violation of
15 subsection (c).

16 (e) The Department shall also develop and offer a hepatitis
17 C counseling training course that includes information
18 relating to the special needs of persons with positive
19 hepatitis C test results, including the importance of early
20 intervention and treatment and recognition of psychosocial
21 needs. The Department may impose a fee for the course to
22 persons other than employees of entities receiving State or
23 federal funds for hepatitis C counseling and testing program
24 through a contract with the Department. The Department shall
25 maintain a registry of persons who successfully complete the
26 training course.

1 (f) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
2 implement the requirements of this Section.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.